

**OWN OF DEERPARK
TOWN BOARD REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2017**

Meeting was held at Town Hall, 420 Route 209, Huguenot, New York 12746

Invocation led by Councilman Schock (Participation Optional)

Supervisor: Gary Spears

Councilmen: Alan Schock, Ken Smith, David Dean, Arthur Trovei

Attorney: Glen Plotsky

Engineer: Al Fusco, Jr.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Smith

Call to Order at 7:01 p.m.

Public Hearing on Local Law #3 of 2017 -A Local Law Reducing the Number of Members from the Planning Board at 7:01 p.m.

Florence T. Santini, Town Clerk read the Public Hearing Notice (a copy is attached to the official minutes).

Glen Plotsky, Attorney read the Local Law (a copy is attached to the official minutes).

Public Comment: Grace Woodward of Piatt Drive asked why there is a problem in the town with a lack of participation in Public Hearings when people show up. In recruiting people for the boards – like the Planning Board. Supervisor Spears told her this was her time to comment and then they'll review it. She thinks there is a problem in recruiting for people who have never participated had not been encouraged or were not aware of the scope...to be educated by the town so that they can participate. She said she thought it was a good thing to reduce the seven years to five years, seven years seemed onerous to her. She said she wants to know if they have five people and if there was an alternate in addition to the five. Mr. Spears said they have had alternates in the past and they don't have any active now. Ms. Woodward asked if they reduce the seven to five, would one of the five be an alternate? Mr. Spears explained five members would make up the board. A quorum would be three. Right now they have a seven member board and the quorum is four and they sometimes only have five, and if a quorum can't be reached, they don't meet. She asked about an alternate and Mr. Spears said there would be an alternate if they had applicants.

Board Comments: None

Motion to Close Public Hearing on Local Law #3 of 2017

Motion by David Dean, 2nd by Ken Smith to close the Public Hearing on Local Law #3 of 2017 at 7:20 p.m.

VOTE: 5 AYES: Alan Schock, Ken Smith, David Dean, Arthur Trovei, Gary Spears

MOTION CARRIED

Public Hearing on Local Law #4 of 2017 -A Local Law on Property Tax Exemption for Cold War Veterans at 7:20 p.m.

Florence T. Santini, Town Clerk read the Public Hearing Notice (a copy is attached to the official minutes).

Glen Plotsky, Attorney read the Local Law (a copy is attached to the official minutes).

Public Comment: None

Board Comments: Supervisor Spears mentioned the County already approved it.

Motion to Close Public Hearing on Local Law #4 of 2017

Motion by David Dean, 2nd by Ken Smith to close the Public Hearing on Local Law #4 of 2017 at 7:25 p.m.

VOTE: 5 AYES: Alan Schock, Ken Smith, David Dean, Arthur Trovei, Gary Spears

MOTION CARRIED

Motion to Recess for Five Minutes

Motion by Ken Smith, 2nd by Alan Schock to recess for five minutes (7:30 p.m.)

VOTE: 5 AYES: Alan Schock, Ken Smith, David Dean, Arthur Trovei, Gary Spears

MOTION CARRIED

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Regular Board Meeting – 7:30 p.m.

Additions/Deletions to Agenda

Supervisor Spears received a playground quote that day for the playground equipment for Bigger Park and wants to add that under New Business.

Supervisor Spears had three upcoming meeting dates with conflicts and recommends the following changes:

- The meeting scheduled for December 18th will be moved to December 28th at 3:00 p.m. for the yearend closeout
- The Board Meeting would fall on January 1st, New Year's Day and that reorg-meeting needs to be changed to Wednesday, January 3rd at 7:00 p.m. due to a Public Hearing
- The January 15th Board Meeting falls on Martin Luther King's birthday and that meeting needs to be changed to Thursday, January 18th at 3:00 p.m. for the financial audit of Town Departments

He would like to add all these to the Agenda under New Business.

Communications

Legislator Tom Faggione reported on county business. He said that the county is getting ready to pass a 2018 Budget for approximately \$752 million. Four years ago the county budget was \$762 million. They will be \$10 million dollars less next year than they were four years ago. The thank you should not just go to the legislators, but the County Executive Steve Neuhaus, who has found innovative ways of running the county government. They offer their employees a buyout and in the last four years, the buyout is estimated to have saved about \$18 million dollars. Citizens across the county will see savings from the buyouts. They are finding ways for the government to run efficiently and as limited as possible. He urged everyone to contact him if they have any questions anytime. He really appreciates the communication with the Supervisor. He reported that the county offices will be together in the renovated Government Center in January and by March they should be running full steam ahead.

Florence Santini reported the Annual Holiday Decoration Contest will be judged the week of December 11th and announce the winners on Tuesday, December 19th. Hamilton Bicentennial School Music Department will present a Christmas Concert at the Sr. Center on Monday, December 11th at 10 a.m. The Association of Town's school registration has been sent to the Department Heads and the Board chairs and she now has reservation forms for rooms. The Hanukkah celebrations will be Tuesday, December 12th through Thursday, December 14th at 3:45 p.m. and Friday, December 15 at 3:15 p.m., Monday, December 18th at 3:45 p.m. She will put it on the website as well.

Public Comment: None

Motion to Approve the November 20, 2017 Board Minutes

Motion by Ken Smith, 2nd by Alan Schock to approve the November 20, 2017 Board Minutes.

VOTE: 5 AYES: Alan Schock, Ken Smith, David Dean, Arthur Trovei, Gary Spears

MOTION CARRIED

Motion to Approve the Local Law #3 of 2017 - A Local Law Reducing the Number of Members from the Planning Board

Motion by David Dean, 2nd by Arthur Trovei to approve the Local Law #3 of 2017 – A Local Law Reducing the Number of Members from the Planning Board.

Discussion: Councilman Dean spoke to Ms. Woodward and said he takes her comments seriously. There were three of them there that have served on the Planning Board. He personally served 14 years on the Planning Board, Gary did 9 years on the Planning Board and Alan served 4 years. So, it didn't used to be a problem to be a full complement of members and lately participation has dropped off. At this time, this is a necessary move on the part of the Town Board. He's not overjoyed about it, but it is a good solution. Attorney Glen Plotsky explained how the number of members constitutes the term of service.

Councilman Trovei agreed that 7 years is way too long.

VOTE: 5 AYES (Roll Call): Alan Schock, Ken Smith, David Dean, Arthur Trovei, Gary Spears

MOTION CARRIED

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Motion to Approve the Local Law #4 of 2017 -A Local Law on Property Tax Exemption for Cold War Veterans

Motion by Ken Smith, 2nd by Alan Schock to approve the Local Law #4 of 2017 - A Local Law on Property Tax Exemption for Cold War Veterans.

Discussion: Supervisor Spears thought this was fair and they adopt this for their veterans. It is not a lot of money but it will help them out and it doesn't cost too much at the town level. Councilman Trovei said he is all for it.

VOTE: 5 AYES (Roll Call): Alan Schock, Ken Smith, David Dean, Arthur Trovei, Gary Spears

MOTION CARRIED

Supervisor Spears spoke about the consideration to extend the dangerous buildings matter for 2 Piatt Drive, 6 Piatt Drive and 1045 Route 209. They have had read the dangerous buildings, public comment, given some extensions, but due to this time of year they should further the extensions at least into January through the holidays and see what kind of progress has been made. There has been further information in that the County has taken title to the properties on both 2 Piatt Drive and 6 Piatt Drive. He doesn't know the County's plan right now.

Public Comment: *Grace Woodward* said she was there for a cleanup on these properties and Ron Flieger took a truckload of bags out and she said it did improve. She got information about the house being there since 1820. If no historical society takes on this project, they may need to demolish the building. Historical preservation of identified sections of the house should be considered. She would like to see both houses evaluated.

Motion to Extend Dangerous Buildings (2 Piatt Drive, 6 Piatt Drive, 1045 Route 209) to February 5, 2018

Motion by Arthur Trovei, 2nd by Alan Schock to extend dangerous buildings to February 5, 2018.

VOTE: 5 AYES: Alan Schock, Ken Smith, David Dean, Arthur Trovei, Gary Spears

MOTION CARRIED

New Business

Motion to Approve Re-Appointment of Susan Miiller to the Board of Assessment Review

Motion by David Dean, 2nd by Ken Smith to approve the re-appointment of Susan Miiller to the Board of Assessment Review to another term.

VOTE: 5 AYES: Alan Schock, Ken Smith, David Dean, Arthur Trovei, Gary Spears

MOTION CARRIED

Motion to Approve Orange & Rockland Utilities for Use of Town Hall

Motion by David Dean, 2nd by Ken Smith to approve Orange & Rockland Utilities to use the Town Hall for a public meeting on December 6th at 6:00 p.m. for Emergency Preparedness Training for Department Heads, Emergency people and the council members are welcome to come.

VOTE: 5 AYES: Alan Schock, Ken Smith, David Dean, Arthur Trovei, Gary Spears

MOTION CARRIED

Town Attorney Glen Plotsky read proposed Local Law #2 of 2018 in its entirety (a copy is attached to the official minutes).

Motion to Set Public Hearing of Local Law #2 of 2018 – “A Local Law Expanding the Residency Requirements for the Appointed Office of Town Building Inspector in the Town of Deerpark”

Motion by Gary Spears, 2nd by Ken Smith to set a Public Hearing of Local Law #2 of 2018 – “A Local Law Expanding the Residency Requirements for the Appointed Office of Town Building Inspector in the Town of Deerpark”.

VOTE: 5 AYES: Alan Schock, Ken Smith, David Dean, Arthur Trovei, Gary Spears

MOTION CARRIED

Motion to Authorize Supervisor to Sign Auction International Contract for 2018

Motion by Ken Smith, 2nd by Arthur Trovei to authorize the Supervisor to sign the Auction International Contract for 2018.

Discussion: Councilman Dean asked if there was a fee for them and Supervisor Spears said there is no fee up front, but when they sell, the buyer pays a premium and the town has the right to deny bids.

VOTE: 5 AYES: Alan Schock, Ken Smith, David Dean, Arthur Trovei, Gary Spears

MOTION CARRIED

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Supervisor Spears mentioned the previous conversations about playground equipment for Bigger Park. He said they looked at slides and found them to be too expensive. A contractor met with him and Ed Hughson and they used state bid bringing down the cost to \$19,950.00 and they would get two slides. He just got the proposal earlier that day. He distributed the information. They picked up \$11,000 in the Recreation Account and now have about \$30,000 in the account for playground equipment. He recommends they do this. He has a plan to reach out to the County for new equipment for Harriet Space Park next year.

Motion to Approve the Purchase of Playground Equipment for Bigger Park in Deerpark Manor

Motion by David Dean, 2nd by Ken Smith to approve the purchase of Playground Equipment for Bigger Park in Deerpark Manor for \$19,950.00.

VOTE: 5 AYES (Roll Call): Alan Schock, Ken Smith, David Dean, Arthur Trovei, Gary Spears

MOTION CARRIED

Appropriations, Budget and Payment of Bills

Motion to Pay Bills and Accept Budget Officer's Report

Motion by David Dean, 2nd by Ken Smith to pay bills that have been signed by three council members and accept and the Budget Officer's Report and all may be viewed in the Town Clerk's Office.

General Fund Abstract #22 of 2017 in the amount of \$374,157.26

Highway Fund Abstract #22 of 2017 in the amount of \$26,253.08

VOTE: 5 AYES (Roll Call): Alan Schock, Ken Smith, David Dean, Arthur Trovei, Gary Spears

MOTION CARRIED

Closing Board Comments

Supervisor Spears – He thanked everyone for purchasing the playground equipment. He said as of March they'll be out of deficit financing. The deficit bond will be paid off. The Auditor's report on the 2018 Budget is fine. The budget was under the tax cap and it seemed reasonable to them and they gave the town a clean bill of health. He said they hope to get the county park and Space Park fixed up.

Councilman Dean – He appreciated the leadership of Mr. Spears and the work of all the councilmen. They have taken the deficit of the town quite seriously and it is gratifying to him to serve with men working together not spending money they don't have. They need to hold on taxes the best they can, they owe that to the people who live in this community. There are good people who live here.

Councilman Trovei – He was encouraged that the county is doing the same thing over there. He appreciates Steve Neuhaus and thinks he is a great leader and doing a good job ... seeing a budget that has dropped. It is not an easy thing. Negotiating contracts has to be fair to both sides. He mentioned tough decisions need to be made.

Councilman Schock – Agreeing, he said yes.

Councilman Smith – He said he agrees with all the comments ... good job. He thanked Tom and all the county does for them.

Motion to Enter Into Executive Session to Discuss Tax Certioraris at 8:40 p.m.

Motion by Ken Smith, 2nd by Alan Schock to enter into Executive Session to discuss tax certioraris (after a 15 minute recess), at 8:40 p.m. and invite in the Town Attorney.

VOTE: 5 AYES: Alan Schock, Ken Smith, David Dean, Arthur Trovei, Gary Spears

MOTION CARRIED

Motion to Re-Enter Regular Session at 9:18 p.m.

Motion by David Dean, 2nd by Arthur Trovei to re-enter Regular Session at 9:18 p.m.

VOTE: 5 AYES: Alan Schock, Ken Smith, David Dean, Arthur Trovei, Gary Spears

MOTION CARRIED

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Motion to Adjourn at 9:20 p.m.

Motion by Ken Smith, 2nd by Alan Schock to adjourn at 9:20 p.m.

VOTE: 5 AYES: Alan Schock, Ken Smith, David Dean, Arthur Trovei, Gary Spears

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted by,

Florence T. Santini
Town Clerk